

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802  
specter.senate.gov

April 30, 2009

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ben Nelson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Inouye and Nelson and Ranking Members Cochran and Murkowski:

As the Subcommittee prepares for consideration of the Fiscal Year 2010 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill, I am writing to urge your consideration of the following item of particular interest to Pennsylvania and the nation. Given our tight budget constraints, we must be careful to ensure that all federal expenditures are well justified and serve the people of our nation. Therefore, I have been selective in the program about which I have chosen to write you.

### Contingent Expenses of the Senate

#### Miscellaneous Items

I urge the Subcommittee to provide \$21.5 million under the Contingent Expenses of Senate Account for Miscellaneous Items. Of this amount, I urge the Subcommittee to include \$500,000, which shall be made available for a program for mailings of postal patron postcards by Senators for the purpose of providing notice of a town meeting by a Senator in a county (or equivalent unit of local government) at which the Senator will personally attend: Provided, That any amount allocated to a Senator for such mailing shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of the mailing and the remaining cost shall be paid by the Senator from other funds available to the Senator.

Recognizing that the input of our constituents is critical to a participatory democracy, I regularly visit all sixty-seven counties in Pennsylvania to conduct town meetings. Due to budget constraints and the cost of circulating town meeting notices to every household in our states,

additional funding is necessary to allow us to properly advise all of our constituents when we will be holding a town meeting in their area. Town meetings are a valuable forum in which Members can share details of our work and in turn hear directly from constituents about the important issues facing our states and the nation.

Additionally, I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending item(s) that I have requested in the Fiscal Year 2010 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

As always, thank you for your consideration of this request.

My Best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Specter', written in a cursive style.

Arlen Specter

AS/jc